



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION MEMORANDUM

8115681

May 18, 1981

SECRET

State Dept. review completed

TO: P - Ambassador Stoessel

FROM: AF - Lannon Walker

SUBJECT: Department Circular 175: Request Authority to
Enter into FBIS Agreement with the Government
of Swaziland

ISSUE FOR DECISION:

Authority is requested to negotiate and conclude an agreement with the Government of Swaziland, along the lines of the attached proposed text, to establish a bureau of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) in the Kingdom of Swaziland.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS:

The proposed FBIS bureau in Swaziland is designed to improve political and economic reporting on Southern Africa in response to the needs of U.S. foreign affairs analysts and policymakers. FBIS has a bureau in the Ivory Coast, which covers most of West Africa, and the BBC, with which we have a reciprocal agreement to share our products, maintains monitoring operations in Kenya (for East Africa and the Horn) and in Malawi, the latter being a small operation with restricted operating hours and communications. The product of the BBC Malawi operation, while useful, does not fully meet the requirements of U.S. consumers concerned with Southern African affairs.

The proposed Swaziland bureau would have the capability to monitor public radio and press agency transmissions and the newspapers and journals of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. English, Portuguese, French, Afrikaans, and Malagasy material would be covered.

The bureau would be staffed by four Americans and 10-15 foreign nationals. To the extent possible, foreign nationals would be hired locally, but in instances where linguistic or

SECRET

GDS 05/15/01 (Walker, Lannon)